

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00

USIA-15 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04

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FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1163

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TAGS: CASC, MX, EGEN, BTIO, PINT, DEA, SNAR, CGEN

SUBJ: HIGHLIGHT TELEGRAPHIC UPDATE FOR MARCH, 1977

1. EIGHT POLICE OFFICERS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN CONNECTION WITH THE ATTEMPTED CLEAN-UP OF THE MAZATLAN POLICE ESTABLISHMENT. SOME OFFICIALS ARE ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY IN THE KIDNAPPING OF A PROMINENT MAZATLAN BUSINESSMAN AND OTHERS ARE ON THE CARPET FOR INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS SMUGGLING. MAZATLAN'S POLICE FORCE IS SO DECIMATED THAT REINFORCEMENTS WERE RECRUITED FROM ESCUINAPA TO HANDLE THE INCREASED SEASONAL TOURIST TRAFFIC. THE CONSUL'S FORMER BODY GUARD AND THE FIFTH ON THE POLICE ROSTER, NOW IN CHARGE, TOLD THE CONSUL THAT THE INVESTIGATIVE AUTHORITY OF THE MUNICIPAL POLICE HAD BEEN ELIMINATED SOME TIME AGO AND THAT THEY DID NOTHING MORE NOW THAN RECORD CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE MAYOR IS BEING BLAMED FOR ALLOWING THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE CORRUPT POLICE OFFICIALS. THE MAYOR IN A PRESS REPLY STATED THAT HE IS NOW DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICE ACTIONS BUT CANNOT BE HIS BROTHER'S KEEPER, THAT CONSIDERING THE ECONOMIC PENURY THAT EXISTS IN THE MUNICIPAL TREASURY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROPERLY TRAIN MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES. HE SAID

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THAT FINES LEVIED BY THE POLICE RARELY REACHED THE MUNICIPAL COFFRES. THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE LEFT THE ONUS ON THE MAYOR AS TO WHETHER MAZATLAN'S POLICE FORCE WAS GOING TO BE CLEANED UP AND ASKED QUOTE ARE YOU GOING TO STAND WITH CROSSED ARMS BECAUSE YOU KNOW OF NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM? UNQUOTE.

2. AT A RECENT BREAKFAST OFFERED THE GOVERNOR BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF CULIACAN TO THANK HIM FOR CONTINUING SUCCESS OF OPERATION CONDOR, THE GOVERNOR NOTED THAT A YEAR AND EIGHT MONTHS HAD ELAPSED SINCE A DELEGATION FROM THE PUBLIC SECTOR HAD CALLED ON HIM REQUESTING ACTION IN THE SUPPRESSION OF DRUG TRAFFICKING IN SINALOA. HE RECOUNTED HIS APPEAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE SUBSEQUENT CALLING IN OF THE ARMY. AMONG OTHER ITEMS, THE GOVERNOR CITED THE BILATERAL INTEREST OF MEXICO AND THE UNITED STATES IN COMBATting THE CULTIVATION OF DRUGS, EVEN THOUGH THE ACTION WAS HAVING A TELLING EFFECT ON SINALOA'S ECONOMY BECAUSE THE FREE-SPENDING CAMPESINOS WERE NOW BEING PUT OUT OF BUSINESS. THE GOVERNOR CITED THE INCONGRUITY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT'S INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF THOSE NORTH AMERICANS INCARCERATED IN MEXICO ON DRUG CHARGES. HE NOTED THAT A TREATY WAS BEING NEGOTIATED FOR THE RETURN OF THE PRISONERS SO THAT THERE WOULD NOT BE FRICTION IN MEXICO'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HIS SPEECH WAS FULL-PAGED IN ITS ENTIRETY IN CULIACAN'S OUTSPOKEN NOROESTE. COMMENT: THE GOVERNOR HAS APPARENTLY BEEN AWAKENED TO THE NECESSITY FOR COUNTERACTING SOME OF THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY ABOUT MEXICO WHICH HAS BEEN RAMPANT IN THE UNITED STATES. IT IS HOPED THAT THE LONG PERIOD OF FOOT-IN-MOUTH COMMENTS HAS NOW SUBSIDED.

3. THERE HAS BEEN MUCH LOCAL COMMENT ABOUT A PRESS REPORT THAT THE AMERICAN FIRM, WALLACE ASSOCIATES, WAS PREPARED TO MAKE AN INVESTMENT OF ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE MILLION PESOS IN MAZATLAN'S COOPERATIVE SHRIMP INDUSTRY. RELIABLE SOURCES HAVE ADVISED THE CONSUL THAT THIS OFFER WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S SIZEABLE INVESTMENT IN PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR WHICH THE COOPERATIVES ARE STILL HEAVILY INDEBTED TO THE GOVERNMENT. ONE SOURCE COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR INVESTMENT IN THE SHRIMP INDUSTRY BUT THAT THERE IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR EXPANSION IN SARDINES AND TUNA.

COMMENT: THE PRESS HAS INDICATED THAT PRESIDENT LOPEZ PORTILLO IS COMING TO MAZATLAN TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF UPGRADING ITS FISHING INDUSTRY.

MATTHEWS

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